

TOWN OF EAST WINDSOR
North Road Sewer Extension Project
Information Session July 28, 2010

Edward Alibozek, WPCA Chief Operator, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the East Windsor Town Hall, 11 Rye St, Broad Brook, CT. Mr. Alibozek welcomed those present and explained that there would be presentations and time for questions following. He introduced Tom Davis, WPCA Vice Chairman and Paul Anderson, WPCA Chairman.

Paul Anderson, WPCA Chairman, gave an overview of the project. He stated that there is an aging pump station that needs to be replaced. Route 140 is zoned the business corridor in the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

Jay Ussery, JR Russo and Associates explained that JR Russo and Associates was contracted to design the project. He discussed the technical details and the Town Sewer Service Area. The sewer line would run along North Rd on the west side of Shoham Rd easterly to Mullen Rd. This area is about 7000 feet. The project would replace the existing North Rd pump station which is 40-50 years old; the estimated cost for the replacement is \$400,000. The project will provide gravity sewer to 260-270 acres of developable land. This project has been in process since 1985 but was never funded until 2 years ago. Mr. Ussery went over the project map pointing out the areas with known septic failures.

Laurie Whitten, Director of Planning and Development, explained that every 5-10 the residents of the Town approve a Plan of Conservation and Development. They have adopted goals to improve and develop business along the North Rd Corridor. There are 364 acres of developable land. Sewer development is safer for the environment; the soils in this area are not compatible for septic systems. Ms. Whitten stated that current regulations do not allow for apartments; they promote self owned, owner occupied dwellings. This project will increase the tax base and achieve the Town Plan of Conservation and Development.

Mike Caronna, North Central Health Department, explained that NCHD has done soil testing along North Rd. It is flat, wet land with poor drainage. There are failed septic systems that risk contaminating wells. Mr. Caronna stated that the NCHD strongly supports the sewer extension on North Rd.

Art Enderle, WPCA Superintendent, explained that pump station near Marsh Motorcycle is failing. This pump station will be replaced regardless of the approval of the project. The estimated cost of the new pump station is \$400,000; that is a conservative estimate.

Cathy Cabral, Treasurer, reported that the Town has been working with the USDA for the past year regarding stimulus money. The cost of the North Road Sewer Extension is \$3,887,000, the AARA Grant from the USDA is \$1,707,000 (this is at no cost to the Town) and the AARA loan portion is \$2,180,000 (offered at 3.25% over 40 years).

Chrissy Caruolo, Webster Bank, explained that the debt service of the Town is low and will drop significantly over the next few years.

Eric Moffett, Chairman of the Economic Development Commission, stated that this gives the Town the opportunity to help businesses and the businesses will help the Town. This project will create jobs.

Carol Madore, Assessor, stated that she is in full support of this project. It is important to the Grand List and to the future of the Town. As businesses close, the Town loses tax dollars; there is a need to grow the Grand List.

Susan Gregware, Area Specialist for the USDA, explained that in addition to the grant available to the Town, there are loans available to residents to assist with the connection charge.

Mark Gilbert, Financial Circuit Rider for Atlantic States Rural Water & Wastewater Association, that the Town is eligible for the grant while the population is under 10,000. When the new census data is published, the population may be over 10,000 and the Town would not be eligible for the grant.

Mr. Alibozek thanked everyone for their support and interest. Questions and comments were taken at this time.

Andy Hoffman, Graham Rd, explained that he has lived in Town for 79 years and has participated in Town activities. He thinks this is a good project. The Town needs to increase the Grand List and needs to bring more industry. This project will allow the pump station to be funded through the grant; if the project isn't approved, the Town will have to find the money to replace the pump station. The brass ring doesn't come around many times; East Windsor needs to grab this opportunity. This is gift money; if East Windsor doesn't take it, someone else will.

Joseph Ouellette, Perri Lane, stated that he is the Chairman of the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Commission is in full support of this project.

Robert Gonzales, Tromley Rd stated that this is one of the best projects ever; it has great benefits to the Town. He will be first in line to vote yes.

Steve Dearborn, East Rd, asked if there were any strings attached to the USDA Grant to bring in low income housing. Mark Gilbert stated there were no strings attached; they have to comply with Davis Bacon Wages and reporting standards to the government.

Ed Filipone, Scantic Rd, is in favor of the project and will vote for the funding. He asked if the Town is locked into the money. Sue Gregware, USDA, the money is set aside for the Town, if the Town votes against the project; the money will go back into the pooling and be redistributed.

Dave _____, Mullen Rd, is in favor of the project. He asked if the wastewater treatment plant would need an upgrade. Mr. Enderle, WPCA Superintendent, stated there is not a capacity problem. The plant is currently running at 26% capacity; there is plenty of capacity.

Annette Fortune asked if water lines would be installed. Ms. Menard, First Selectman, replied that the CT Water Co is not interested in extending the water line.

Robert Gonzales, Tromley Rd, questioned if the census results would affect the load. Sue Gregware replied that the money is already set aside for East Windsor, but the Town would not qualify if they reapplied.

John Simonelli, 71 Depot St, stated that the pump station needs to be replaced, the Town needs to grow the Grand List and they have land zoned to be developed. This is the ultimate no brainer.

Bob Lyke, 80 Rye St, East Windsor needs to balance the budget, cut costs, increase revenues and get North Rd sewered. He spent two hours last Thursday with Ed Alibozek who is a dedicated individual with no political interests. Everyone should take the time to go to one of the informational sessions.

Cathy Simonelli, 71 Depot St, stated she is 110% in support of this project; let's not blow this; we may not get another opportunity. This project will have a positive impact on the town.

Marie DeSousa, Rice Rd, thinks this is a great opportunity and it will help small businesses in town.

Jim Richard, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, explained that the plant has the capacity and there is interest in development.

Richard Coville, Margaret Dr, plans have been in place for this project since 1985, this is an opportunity for a \$1.7 million grant. Residents will benefit; businesses will want to hookup. It is in the best interest of the town to go forward with this project.

Andy Hoffman, we have heard a lot of favorable comments; call ten friends about this and vote for it. This is an investment in the community.

Paul Benson, Pasco Commons, has developed 7 acres and put \$400,000 in the sewer system.

Richard Coville asked Mike Caronna of NCH, if the sewer project doesn't go through and the properties become uninhabitable, could the State come in and tell the town to put in sewers? Mike Caronna replied that yes, they could and it has happened in other towns. It is possible for the DEP to issue an order.

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Michael
WPCA Recording Secretary